MARVEL
INFERNO
HOPELESS
GARRÓN
SOTOMAYOR
005
SECRET WARS

X-MEN
BATTLEWORLD
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED.
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS
BATTLEWORLD!
FIVE YEARS AGO, THE INFERNO CONSUMED NEW YORK CITY. ILLYANA RASPUTIN, INFECTED BY ITS DARK ENERGIES, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE DARKCHILD, BECOMING RULER OF THE INFERNO'S DEMON HORDES. TO CONTAIN THE INFERNO, MANHATTAN WAS QUARANTINED AND SHUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE DOMAIN.
EVERY YEAR, PIOTR RASPUTIN, A.K.A. THE X-MAN COLOSSUS, ATTEMPTS TO RESCUE HIS SISTER AND END THE INFERNO'S INFECTION OF MANHATTAN. THIS YEAR, HIS RESCUE ATTEMPT HAS BEEN A DISASTER.
NIGHTCRAWLER WAS CAPTURED BY THE DARKCHILD AND TRANSFORMED INTO A HIDEOUS BEAST. BOOM BOOM WAS SEEMINGLY KILLED BY A DEMON. THE INFERNO HAS ESCAPED THE QUARANTINE, INFECTING THE REST OF NEW YORK AND LEAVING THE REMAINING X-MEN IN PERPETUAL RETREAT.
COLOSSUS AND DOMINO WERE FORCED TO TEAM UP WITH GOBLIN QUEEN MADELYNE PRYOR. WHEN ALL SEEMED LOST, THE GROUP DISCOVERED THAT BOOM BOOM WAS ALIVE AND WELL, HAVING BEEN SAVED BY A MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTOR—MISTER SINISTER HIMSELF, WHO HAS OFFERED THE X-MEN AN UNEASY ALLIANCE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO DESTROY THE DARKCHILD ONCE AND FOR ALL...
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INFERNO

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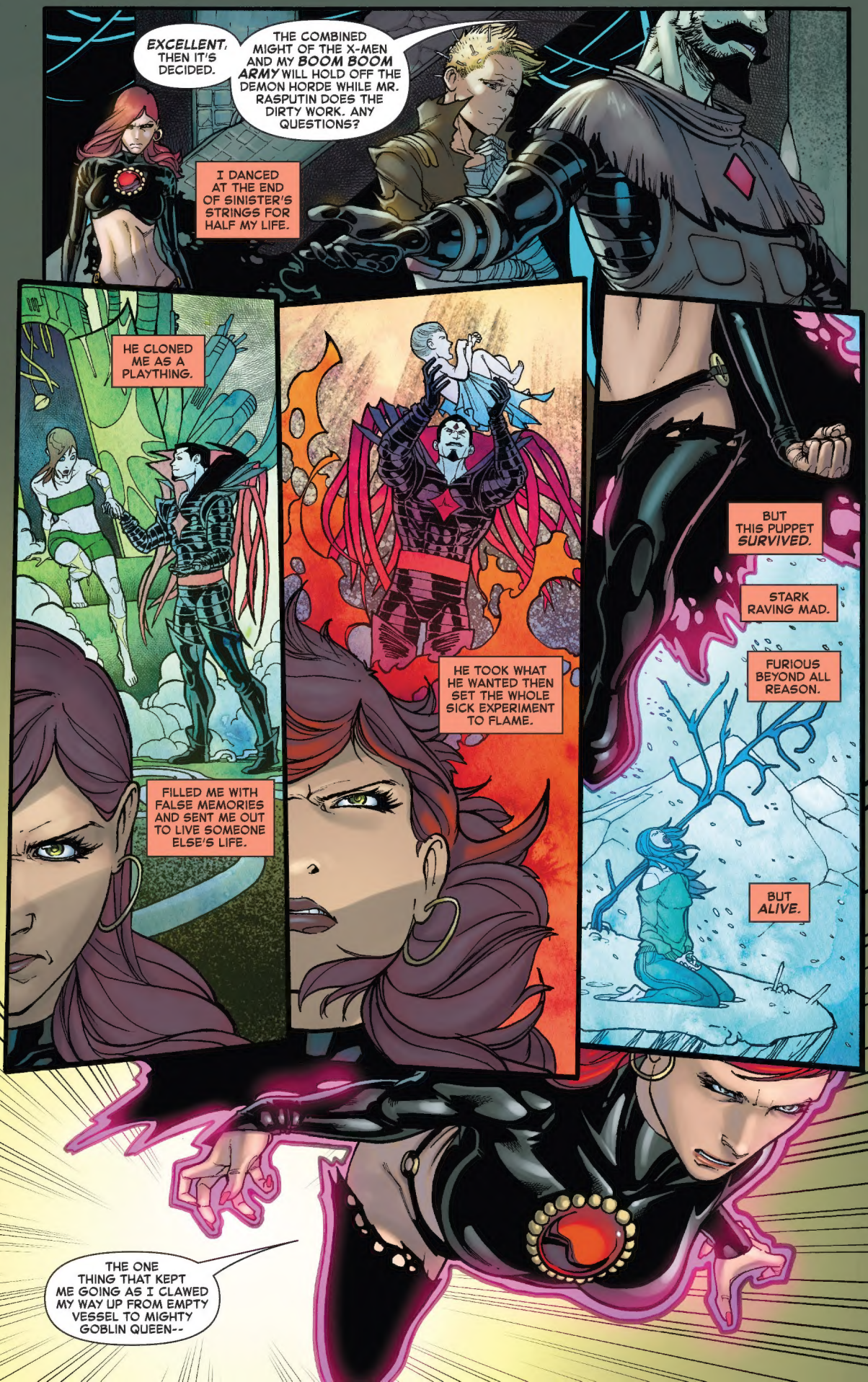
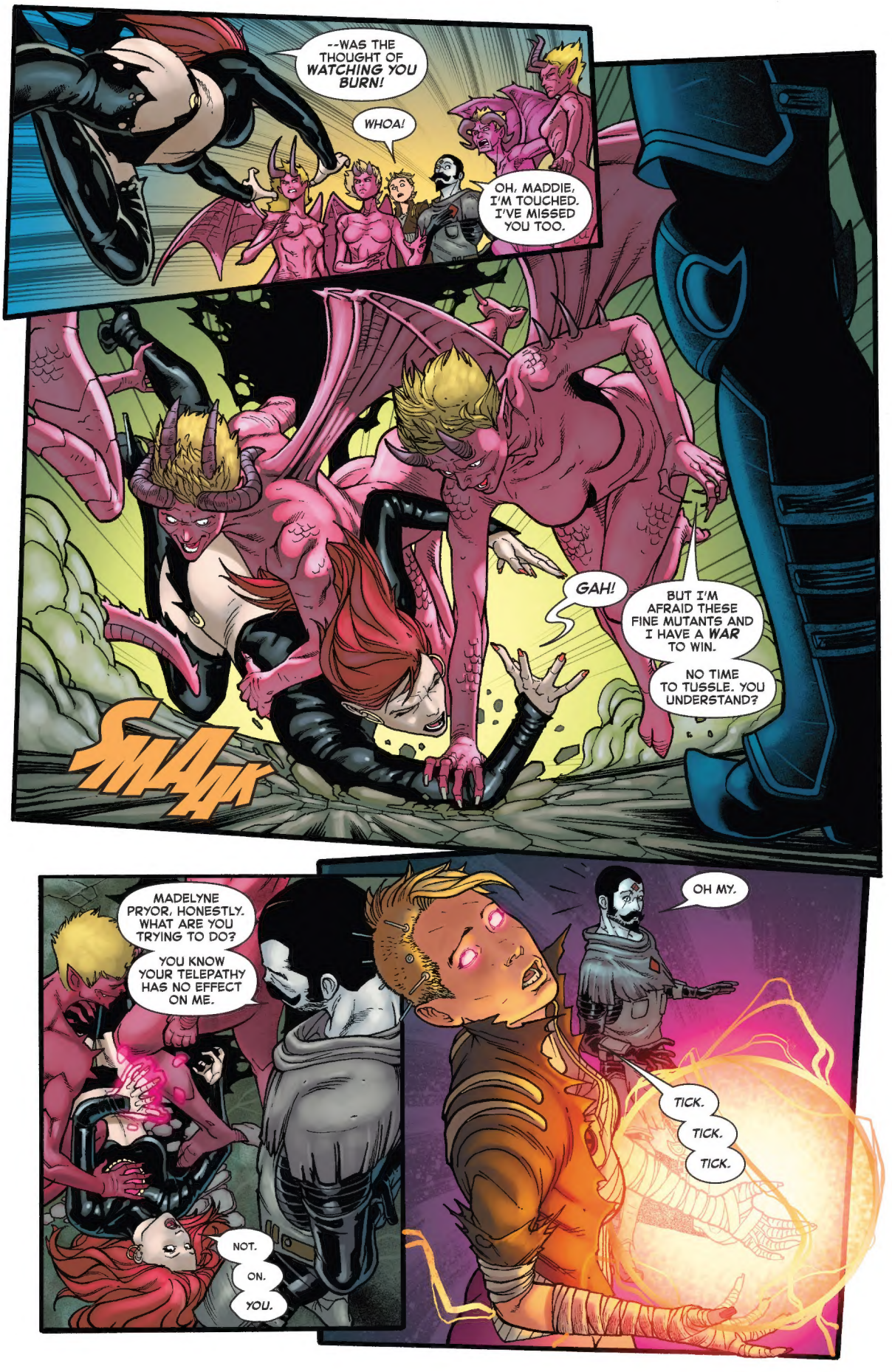
MY GRANDMOTHER USED TO SAY THERE EXISTS NO GREATER PLEASURE IN THIS WORLD--
X INFERNO. THE OUTER BOROUGHS.
--THAN WATCHING CHILDREN AT PLAY.
HMM...
...SORRY, BABUSHKA.
I JUST DON'T SEE IT.
DARKCHILD! THERE YOU ARE!
YES, N'ASTIRH. RIGHT OVER HERE WITH THE HOT DOGS.
:NOM NOM:
WHERE ELSE?

I TAKE IT YOUR EXTERMINATION OF THE REMAINING X-MEN DID NOT GO AS PLANNED.
IT WAS GOING PEACHES AND DAMNED CREAM UNTIL MADDIE PRYOR AND HER GOBLIN ARMY SHOWED--
--WAGH!
HEY, WATCH IT! MY DOGS!
PLEASE TELL ME A GOBLIN DID NOT TAKE YOUR HEAD.
NO, YOUR BROTHER DID. HE'S QUITE A BIT MORE IMPRESSIVE WITH THAT SOULSWORD IN HAND.
OBVIOUSLY.
THUMP
THUMP
THEY PRETTY WELL WIPED US OUT. PRYOR EVEN MANAGED TO TAME YOUR BAMF DRAGON.
THAT IS DISAPPOINTING.
I SLIPPED OUT WHEN MISTER SINISTER SHOWED UP. HE'S CLONED HIMSELF A HALF-BREED ARMY. INCENDIARIES, FROM THE LOOK OF 'EM.
SO ALL MY ENEMIES HAVE PILED THEMSELVES TOGETHER DOWN IN THE SEWERS?
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.
HEH HEH HEH HEH...

"...WON'T THAT BE *FUN* TO SORT OUT."
I SPENT *FIVE LONG YEARS* TRAPPED IN THE ROTTEN PIT THAT WAS MANHATTAN, DREAMING OF BLUE SKIES, CLEAR WATER AND *FRESH MEAT.*
THE SEWERS BENEATH NYC.
NOW THAT I'M *OUT*, I CAN'T HAVE THE DARKCHILD AND HER BEASTIES SPOILING MY DREAM COME TRUE.
I WON'T BE TRADING ONE HELL FOR ANOTHER.
KRUNCH
SHE *MUST* BE STOPPED.
YEAH, AGREED, BUT HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DO THAT, SINISTER?
MY CLONE ARMY CAN SHOOT PLASMA BOMBS FROM THEIR FINGERTIPS, MR. SUMMERS.
AND ILLYANA TOOK OUT DOZENS OF MY BEST X-MEN IN A MATTER OF MINUTES.
AT THIS POINT, EVEN *I* HAVE TO ADMIT SHE CAN'T BE BEATEN.
HAVE YOU NOT SEEN THE LARGE METAL FELLOW AND HIS MAGIC SWORD?
HE IS RIGHT, SCOTT. THE SOUL-SWORD MAY BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ILLYANA. MY DEMON ARM LETS ME WIELD IT.


EXCELLENT. THEN IT'S DECIDED.
THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE X-MEN AND MY BOOM BOOM ARMY WILL HOLD OFF THE DEMON HORDE WHILE MR. RASPUTIN DOES THE DIRTY WORK. ANY QUESTIONS?
I DANCED AT THE END OF SINISTER'S STRINGS FOR HALF MY LIFE.
HE CLONED ME AS A PLAYTHING.
FILLED ME WITH FALSE MEMORIES AND SENT ME OUT TO LIVE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE.
HE TOOK WHAT HE WANTED THEN SET THE WHOLE SICK EXPERIMENT TO FLAME.
BUT THIS PUPPET SURVIVED.
STARK RAVING MAD.
FURIOUS BEYOND ALL REASON.
BUT ALIVE.
THE ONE THING THAT KEPT ME GOING AS I CLAWED MY WAY UP FROM EMPTY VESSEL TO MIGHTY GOBLIN QUEEN--


--WAS THE THOUGHT OF WATCHING YOU BURN!
WHOA!
OH, MADDIE, I'M TOUCHED. I'VE MISSED YOU TOO.
SMACK
GAH!
BUT I'M AFRAID THESE FINE MUTANTS AND I HAVE A WAR TO WIN.
NO TIME TO TUSSLE. YOU UNDERSTAND?
MADELYNE PRYOR, HONESTLY. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
YOU KNOW YOUR TELEPATHY HAS NO EFFECT ON ME.
NOT.
ON.
YOU.
OH MY.
TICK.
TICK.
TICK.

BOOM
WOW.
YEAH.
HEY, PETE.
YES?
ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
YES.
GRAAAAHHH!!!
THOSE CLONES OF HIS--
ARE GONNA BE A PROBLEM.
KILL ME IF YOU MUST, SUCCUBUS, BUT KNOCK OFF THE WAILING...I'VE DONE YOU A FAVOR.
GRAAAAHHH!!!
NAARGH!
BOOM
HAVOK!

BOOM BOOM
PETE! WHAT IS POPPING OFF RIGHT NOW?!
JUST STAY DOWN, TABBY.
KA-ZAAAT
NEENA?!
SOME CREEPO MESSED WITH YOUR HEAD AND YOU WENT A LITTLE DIM ON US. NOW HE'S DEAD, YOU'RE COOL AND HIS MINIONS ARE TRYING TO ROAST US.
OH, F'REAL?
YEAH, KIND OF A WEIRD DAY, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
BRING IT ON, HALF-BREED!
THERE'S NO NEED TO TAUNT THEM, NATHAN.
THIS IS WHERE WE END.
PERHAPS.
BAMF
THEN AGAIN...
...PERHAPS NOT.
BAMF
SLICE
GOOD BOY.

BOOM
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
BOOM
ARRRGH!
NOOO!
BOOM

CRUMMBLE
SCOTT! THE CEILING!
NOT TO BE DISMISSIVE, JEAN--

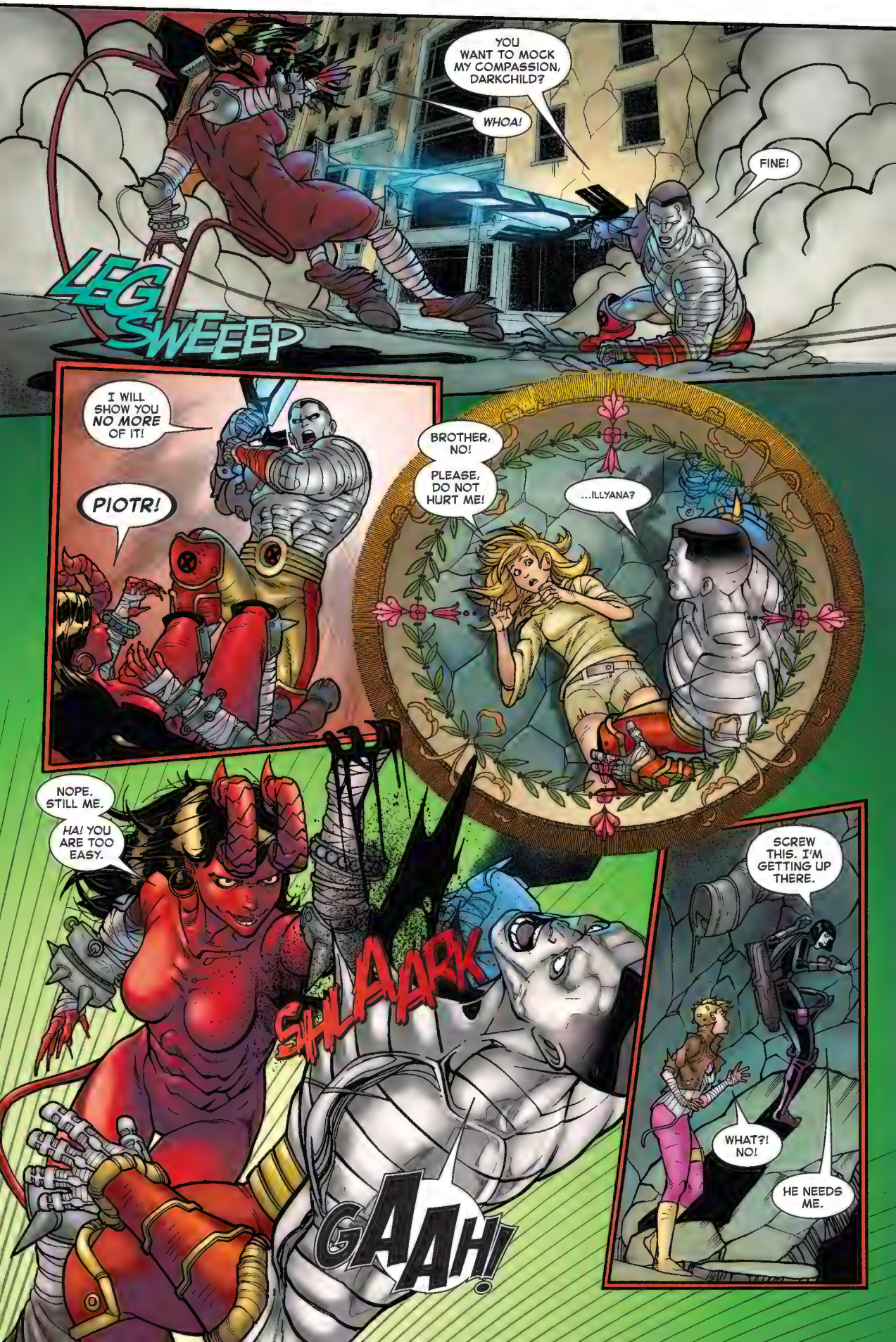
--BUT THE CRUMBLING CEILING ISN'T MY HIGHEST PRIORITY RIGHT AT THE MOMENT.
THOOOM
TRUST ME, SWEETHEART--

--IT'S ABOUT TO BE.
OH.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW, *BABUSHKA* WAS RIGHT...

...CHILDREN AT PLAY DO WARM THE HEART.
HAVE A FEW MORE PLAYMATES.

GOD DOOM!
THERE'S SO FRIGGIN' MANY! WHATDOWEDO?!
KEEP MOVING!
YAAARHGH!
STAB
STAB
HAVE TO GET--
--ABOVE IT.
:DETH-RATTLLL--:
SHANK
KRUNCH
NOOOO!!
WE GOTTA HELP THEM!
NOTHING WE CAN DO, BOOM. IT'S OVER.
NOT QUITE OVER.
NOT YET.

I MUST NOT OVERTHINK THIS.
CLIMB.
FIGHT.
END IT.
ILLYANA'S FATE WILL BE DECIDED--
YO, BRO.
PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?!
OH, RIGHT.
SMAASH
YOU ARE A MONSTER.
SOUND ABOUT RIGHT?
UM...YEAH. OBVIOUSLY.
"MY POOR LITTLE SISTER! I FAILED HER!"
"NOW I WILL CRY AS SHE COOKS ALL MY FRIENDS ON A SPIT!"


YOU WANT TO MOCK MY COMPASSION, DARKCHILD?
WHOA!
FINE!
LEG SWEEEEP
I WILL SHOW YOU NO MORE OF IT!
PIOTR!
BROTHER, NO!
PLEASE, DO NOT HURT ME!
...ILLYANA?
NOPE. STILL ME.
HA! YOU ARE TOO EASY.
SHLAARK
GAAH!
SCREW THIS. I'M GETTING UP THERE.
WHAT?! NO!
HE NEEDS ME.

BLEEDING?! BUT...I AM MADE OF STEEL!
HOW DID YOU DO THIS?!
BLACK MAGIC.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THE PAIN WILL ALL BE OVER--
--SOON?
WHAT THE DEVIL?
SOON? FOR YOU, PERHAPS.
AGH! MY LEG!
CRUMBLE
THMMP
FOR ME THE PAIN WILL LAST A LIFETIME.
BUT I CANNOT LET THAT STOP ME ANY LONGER.
I MUST END THIS.
END THIS?
YOU MEAN... MURDER YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD?!
I...NO.
DAMMIT, PETE, SHE'S MESSING WITH YOUR HEAD!
YOU HAVE TO DO IT!
REMEMBER WHAT THAT THING IS! REMEMBER THE PEOPLE SHE'S KILLED!

I REMEMBER!
WHOOPS! YOU MISSED ME.
CHAVVK
NO! =UGH=
GIVE IT UP, BRO.
A MAN LIKE YOU CANNOT KILL WHAT HE LOVES.
YOU DO NOT HAVE IT IN YOU.
I ON THE OTHER HAND--
HURRRK
--HAVE ENOUGH MURDER IN ME FOR THE BOTH OF US.
ILLYANA--
=-NARRGH-=
--I'M SO SORRY.

NO, NO, NO, NO.
WE'RE NOT APOLOGIZING TO THIS &#$%!
KA-ZAAAT
SHOOTING HER IN THE FACE, THOUGH?
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
ZAAAT
SEE THERE, BROTHER, EVEN YOUR LITTLE GIRLIE-FRIEND KNOWS THE SCORE.
ALL THIS ENERGY SPENT TRYING TO SAVE THE MONSTER WHO ATE YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
NEENA!
WHEN THE SMART PLAY WOULD HAVE BEEN--
--KILLING IT BEFORE IT ATE SOMEONE ELSE.

EAT!
THIS!
SIZZ

OH, MY GOD, BABE!
I DON'T... WHAT CAN I...
ARE YOU... COOL?
CUCUMBER COOL.
RIGHT.
I TOLD MYSELF ILLYANA WAS STILL IN THERE.
TOLD MYSELF THIS MAGIC SWORD COULD CUT HER OUT.
HOW DID I NOT SEE THAT MY SISTER WAS GONE?
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO GIVE UP. NOT ON PEOPLE YOU LOVE.
BUT, BABE, LOOK OVER THERE.
YOU DIDN'T FAIL ILLYANA.
YOU SET HER FREE.
I WAS BEATEN...I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, NOT UNTIL YOU--
YOU KNEW I WOULDN'T LET HER HURT YOU.
KNEW IS A STRONG WORD. MORE LIKE I WAS ROLLING THE DICE.
BUT IT SEEMED LIKE YOU NEEDED A LITTLE PUSH.
--IT WAS...
IT WAS YOU.
EH, MAYBE A LITTLE.

I LOVE YOU.
CLEARLY.
SO! YO!
WEIRD AND CUTE WITH DOM AND PETE IS USUALLY MY FAVORITE SHOW...
...BUT UM, ALL OF THE OTHER X-MEN ARE DEAD NOW AND THE SEWER DEMONS ARE GETTING TWITCHY.
CAN WE, LIKE, BOUNCE OUT?
NOT A BAD PLAN. WHERE SHOULD WE GO?
SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WICKED! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD 'PORT WITH THAT THING.
NEITHER DID I.
A LITTLE VOICE IN MY HEAD JUST TOLD ME TO TRY.
DOOM'S NOT GONNA LIKE US HOPPING DOMAINS.
THEN MAYBE HE SHOULDN'T HAVE LET THIS ONE BURN.
TRUE THAT.

BAMF
LATER.
WELL, WELL, WELL.
THE METAL MAN CAME THROUGH.
IT'S WEIRD THAT SHE'S EVEN COOLER LOOKING AS A CORPSE.
SOME GIRLS HAVE ALL THE LUCK.
WHAT'S WITH THE CRAZY CORPSE FLAME?
WEIRD. WHERE'S IT GOING?
THAT'S HELLFIRE, THE DARKCHILD'S DEMON POWER ESCAPING.
HEH.
WHERE INDEED?
NAAARRGGHH!!!
MOM!
FOOSH
FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES.
MOM! NO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

CALM DOWN, SWEETS.
MOMMA'S GONNA BE JUST FINE.
AWESOME.
MARVEL

MINUTEMEN
Blutman